

**STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**August 6, 2015**

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, August 6, 2015, was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chairman Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anita Dodd, Richard Chichester, Barbara Kirby, Ken Pitts, David Rodriguez, Ann Best-Rolls

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker, Sylvia Dyson

GUESTS PRESENT: Eric Mink, National Park Service  
Jamie Porter, Parks & Recreation  
Derrick Carr, Parks & Recreation  
Brion Southall, Parks & Recreation

Ms. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Kirby to call the roll. With six members present it was determined there was a quorum. Ms. Dodd stated with no public presentations they would move on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Civil War Database Update – Eric Mink, National Park Service

Mr. Mink handed out copies of the of the updated report to the Commission members explaining that last's month update had completed mapping the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps to the best of their ability which is why he decided to move on to the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Corps who had camped along the county line south of Belle Plain. He stated that in doing so he discovered that a large percentage of the corps had been camping across the county line, according to the maps, across the lines of King George. He explained that the document he had provided to the Commission included two brigades and the artillery camps of one of the divisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> corps that did camp in Stafford County. He further explained that the 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade of that division was across the line and that he did not include it in the report. He pointed out that there were also two more divisions but that they were located in King George. Mr. Mink asked the Commission if he should ignore those for the time being since they had nothing to do with Stafford County. He also stated that he would at some point map them for historical purposes.

Ms. Dodd felt that he should not fully record the sites outside of Stafford County, but that he should have a caveat stating that there were further sites in King George. Mr. Mink suggested adding a chapter mentioning that the sites were outside of Stafford County and that information could be found at the offices of the National Park Service. Ms. Dodd asked the Commission if they agreed and there seemed to be a consensus.

Mr. Pitts inquired if the July update had been sent out to the Commission as he was unable to find it. Ms. Baker and Mr. Mink stated that it was.

Ms. Dodd asked Mr. Mink if he had been receiving input, additions, or corrections from people. Mr. Mink stated that he did. He further stated that he would verify that he doesn't skip over anything of the 1<sup>st</sup> army corps and then move on to the next one.

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Ms. Best-Rolls joined the meeting at 3:10 PM.

2. County-owned Historic Properties Update – Jamie Porter, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

Ms. Dodd introduced Ms. Jamie Porter of Parks & Rec and explained that she would be giving an update regarding cultural resources on park property and to talk about further cooperation.

Ms. Porter stated that she would like to talk about sites that Parks & Rec found to be significant properties for the community. She stated that there were several that they had been working on recently including the Courthouse property, the Brooks property, the Aquia Bath House, the Belmont Ferry Farm Trail, Courthouse exterior painting, the Shelton's Cottage repair. She further stated that she would also be happy to talk about any other sites the Commission would like to discuss. Ms. Porter proceeded to introduce Mr. Derrick Carr, the Parks & Recs Administrator, and Brion Southall, the Assistant Director of Parks & Rec, who would be providing some details on the current projects.

Mr. Southall stated that Parks and Rec had received a certificate of appropriateness for the benches, the brick, trash cans, and mile markers for the Courthouse property. He further stated that the work was on schedule. He explained that the lead paint had been removed and that there were certificates on file verifying that. Mr. Southall stated that currently they were working on mortar joints, brass cleaning, and copper work on the roof, amongst other things. Upon Ms. Dodd's inquiry, Mr. Southall stated that the plaque was currently in hand and would go in the ground as soon as the scaffolding was taken down. Ms. Dodd further inquired about the pavement scenario that had been discussed previously. Ms. Porter confirmed that that was still in the contract but they were going to wait to put the pieces in the ground when the Courthouse façade is complete.

Mr. Southall moved on to the next subject, which was Shelton Cottage. He stated that the roof had been repaired including all the leaks and that they would move on to the wood underneath the stoop, front door, back door this year. Ms. Dodd inquired whether Parks & Rec was working with Dovetail. Mr. Southall confirmed. Ms. Dodd suggested getting advice from Dovetail regarding some of the sensitive materials at Shelton Cottage. Ms. Best-Rolls inquired if there were any members on the Architectural Review Board (ARB) that had that kind of knowledge and could assist. Ms. Baker explained that depending on the scope of work, Parks & Rec would have to come back to the ARB for additional exterior work unless it was just replacement in kind or repairs. She further stated that there were knowledgeable members like an architectural historian for example, as well as Ms. Gossett. Upon Mr. Chichester's inquiry Mr. Southall stated that they were hoping to complete the work on Shelton Cottage in the current fiscal year, which ended in June. He further explained that they would have some engineers or architect come in to estimate the scope of work. He stated that Parks & Rec had the contractor take a look at the site to see if the work they wanted to do was even doable. Mr. Southall explained that some the work included pulling out some of the rotten sill from underneath the floor as well as installing copper gutters. He further stated that the contractor felt it was safe to do work inside the structure. Ms. Dodd asked if somebody was keeping track of all repairs. Mr. Southall stated that Dovetail kept a log.

Ms. Kirby stated that she recently received two calls from individuals trying to get some information about Bloomington cemetery located in Patawomeck Park and looking for some sort of information, some signage showing the location of the cemetery as well as handouts. Ms. Porter explained that Phase II would include a trail to the cemetery. Ms. Dodd stated that Dovetail did do an archeological study there

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and that there was a report containing all the information. She did however also feel that there should be some sort of signage indicating that behind the fence was an actual cemetery. Ms. Dodd and Ms. Kirby agreed that the cemetery would need to be cleaned up a little bit and that it would be nice if people could actually go in. Ms. Dodd offered that the Commission could assist in coming up with some language for handouts and such, similar to what they had done for the Falmouth cemetery self-guided tour. She further explained that Economic Development had printed the handouts for them and might be able to assist Parks & Rec as well. Ms. Dodd further suggested that the handouts should be available at the site as well as other facilities. Ms. Porter explained that there were informational signs at most of Parks & Rec's facilities. She stated that there was currently not one at Patawomeck but there was a map that could be found in the pockets underneath the informational signage, as well as brochures, and magazines. She further stated that Patawomeck was part of the capital improvement program and it was one of the Board's priorities to go to Phase II with this particular park. Ms. Porter further stated that depending on the outcome of this discussion she would like to find out what the timing of the Phase II was and then also try to find out if there were any steps between the CIP and what the Commission was describing as clearing of the area going towards the cemetery and getting information together for patrons coming into the park. She stated that she would keep in touch with the Commission and keep them updated regarding the progress. Ms. Porter also stated that Mr. Carr had been working with Economic Development and Tourism. Ms. Dodd stated that the Cemetery was working together with Boy and Girl scouts of Stafford County in getting some of the cemeteries cleaned up and that she was certain they could also assist Parks & Rec in cleaning up Bloomington cemetery.

Ms. Best-Rolls asked if any slave cemetery had been found in that location. Ms. Dodd responded that she was sure that there was one, however the locations get lost and are no longer identifiable.

Ms. Dodd inquired how the budget worked for these cultural resources. Ms. Porter explained that there was an operational budget which allowed Parks & Rec to continue with programming and keeping thing in good repair. She further explained that there was also a running list of projects that they would like to do which went from initially \$10 million to \$18 million worth. She further stated that they had a cash capital program and they received \$2-4 million each year which could be used for repairs. She stated that Shelton's Cottage had actually been on the cash capital program list. Ms. Porter further explained that the reason there was no completion date for Shelton's Cottage as of yet was because they wanted to consult with Dovetail and the Commission first on how to proceed with the repairs. Ms. Porter also stated that since the structure was in a floodplain had been flooded several times they wanted to wait on the engineer's report to make sure the property would stay stable. She explained that the property flooded 6 to 10 times a year and that they would use flood safe materials, such as the ones used for the restroom facilities at Aquia Landing. Mr. Southall explained that at Aquia Landing they replaced the 2 x 4 with block so the flood waters couldn't rot it out. Ms. Porter added that their goal was to fix those properties long term. She further explained that although the restroom facilities had no historical significance, they wanted to make sure that it was just as becoming as the history at this site.

Ms. Dodd suggested getting in touch with the National Park Service information on flooding as well as Occoquan who also had flood issues to see what kind of solutions they had. Ms. Baker added that there were several preservation briefs that could be found on the National Park Service website. Mr. Southall stated that currently they were thinking about putting vents on each side of the foundation to be able to create a better venting system. Ms. Dodd inquired if the area was still flooding as much as it used to. Parks & Rec staff confirmed.

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Ms. Porter inquired if once Parks & Rec came up with the scope of work they could come back to the Commission and the Commission could write a statement expressing the Commission's support of a particular project to assist with the funding mechanism. Ms. Dodd confirmed.

Ms. Dodd inquired if Parks & Rec could add a line item to their budget specifically for the maintenance of the historical resources to prevent having to ask for money each year. Ms. Porter replied that she had been with Parks & Recs for the last 3 years, and the budget had never changed. She further explained that Parks & Rec was a revenue generating department, but her understanding was that the money generated went back into the general fund and not directly back to Parks & Rec. She did however state that she would check into the possibility of adding such line item. Ms. Dodd stated that the Commission would certainly show their support and voice their opinion regarding a budget increase if Ms. Porter so desired. Ms. Porter stated that concerning the overall budget that would not be the route to go, but she would like to get some sort of funding statement from the Commission which would confirm that a particular project was in line with the Commission's goals for historic site, which could be used in trying to acquire additional funding.

Ms. Dodd offered the Commission's full support.

Mr. Pitts inquired about the progress on the Duff Green house. Ms. Porter stated that they had not made any further progress. Ms. Dodd asked whether there were any ideas flying around as to what the building might be used for. Ms. Porter explained that the site had been shown twice and there were in fact ideas. She did not specify which ideas.

Ms. Porter stated she would continue to update the Commission through Ms. Baker. With no further questions from the Commission Ms. Porter, Mr. Southall, and Mr. Carr left the meeting.

Ms. Best-Rolls inquired about the Counting House. Ms. Dodd stated that her understanding was that the County was offering the property for sale, but the sale stipulated that the developer would have to comply with certain regulations as far as what could and could not be done with the building. Ms. Baker added that so far there had been two proposals submitted and the applicants had been interviewed by a panel that included Supervisor Bob Thomas. She also stated that the proposals would be further discussed in closed session at the next Board meeting.

### 3. Rappahannock River Crossing – Section 106 Review

Ms. Dodd stated that in looking at the report that had been provided to the Commission she was not entirely sure what the applicant was trying to do. She assumed that the just of it was that a piece of the canal might be compromised by the development and that the developer was trying to deal with the issue. Ms. Baker stated that she had not had a chance to review the document. Mr. Pitts felt that the developer was trying to stay away from anything visible. Ms. Kirby agreed, but was concerned that visible things could be "made invisible" during construction. Ms. Best-Rolls' understanding was that the physical placement of the bridge would be near the canal, but not on it. Mr. Pitts added that the developer was probably more concerned about the heavy equipment they would be using on the site, such as the crane that was depicted in the report.

Ms. Dodd inquired whether the developer was planning on putting up two new bridges. Ms. Baker stated that to her knowledge they were putting in collector distributor lanes, which were additional lanes to help

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serve local population. Ms. Baker also stated that that could mean they were putting on additional bridges. Mr. Pitts agreed.

Ms. Dodd asked the Commission if there was a desire to respond to the report. Ms. Baker offered to contact the developer to get more clarification on the proposed project. Ms. Best-Rolls stated that she would like to know just how close the construction would be to the actual canal. Mr. Rodriguez added that it would also be interesting to know how much of the canal is still there. Ms. Dodd stated that there was a publication that dealt with the canal system which was done a couple of years ago which contained all the information on the canal including measurements.

With no further comments from the Commissioner's on this subject, Ms. Dodd stated that she would send a letter to the developer.

**4. Landfill Telecommunications Tower – Section 106 Review**

Ms. Dodd felt that the location was the worst the applicant could have picked since it was right up against the Civil War Park. Mr. Pitts stated that there was already work in progress at the site for a cell tower, and that the proposed tower would be the least of their worries. He further stated that dirt had already been dumped right up against the buffer. Mr. Pitts felt that adding the proposed tower would not make much of a difference, because of the much bigger tower already being constructed.

Ms. Dodd inquired about the area on the map depicted in red. Ms. Baker explained that trash would be dumped in that area. Ms. Dodd felt that eventually the trash would tower over. Ms. Baker stated she did not have the details on that.

Mr. Pitts inquired about a cemetery in the affected area. Ms. Dodd stated that the location of the cemetery was never found.

Mr. Pitts stated that he was not aware of any historic resources on the site, the only thing was that the tower would be in sight. Mr. Kirby was concerned that eventually there would be an abundance of cell towers. Ms. Baker stated that the simulation would give a good idea of what would be visible, and that the bigger tower that was currently being built was already in plain view.

Ms. Dodd was concerned whether the actual construction would have an effect on the Civil War Park. Mr. Pitts explained that the site was about a half a mile away from the park and shouldn't be affected by the construction. Ms. Dodd stated that she did not have any issues with the tower then.

Ms. Kirby pointed out that these types of towers used to be built to look like trees, and was wondering why that couldn't be done in this case.

Ms. Dodd asked the Commission whether they wanted to take any action. Ms. Kirby would like to change the location of the tower so they're not as visible. Mr. Pitts added that the property lines of the Park were never surveyed. Ms. Dodd stated that that had been brought up numerous times. Mr. Pitts stated that he would talk to Mr. Milde since he was a member of the R-Board and try to get some information.

Ms. Dodd inquired who the R-Board was answering to since they were their own entity and in charge of

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the landfill. Ms. Kirby stated that they answered to the Board of Supervisors and to the City of Fredericksburg.

Ms. Best-Rolls felt it would be wise to ask if the tower could be moved out of sight since there probably would be more of its kind put up. Ms. Baker explained that the County had a telecommunications plan in place as part of the Comprehensive Plan and that this plan dictated the distances from one tower to the next. She further stated that companies were looking at county properties for possible sites. She added that they would look at things like water towers where they only had to add antennas. Ms. Baker stated that they were not only looking at the placement of the towers, but also at the need to support service in a particular area.

Since the Commission could not come to a consensus on whether or not they wanted to take any action in this matter, Ms. Dodd asked for a vote. Mr. Pitts made a motion to take no action in this matter. Mr. Chichester seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 1 (Ms. Kirby voted nay).

**5. Mountain View Road Telecommunications Tower – Section 106 Review**

Ms. Dodd seemed to remember that there had been some communication regarding the tower being shown on the wrong side of the road. Ms. Baker stated that she had mistakenly sent out to copies of the landfill map and that she never sent out the actual map for this project. She showed the map to the Commission explaining that there was an existing water tower on the north side of Mountain View Road and that the tower would go right next to that. Mr. Pitts inquired why they did not put it on the water tower. Ms. Baker was unaware. Ms. Kirby inquired about the height of the water tower. Mr. Pitts stated it was about 168 feet and that the telecommunications tower would be 180 feet. Ms. Best-Rolls inquired about the exact location of the tower. Ms. Kirby stated it was maybe a mile west of Mountain View School and was surrounded by housing developments.

The Commission agreed to not take any action on this item.

**6. MCB Quantico Water Tower Demolition**

Ms. Dodd stated that Quantico Marine Base asked for the Commission's input as a consulting party or concurring party. Ms. Dodd felt that the Commission should accept the invitation to show interest in what happens on the base. Ms. Kirby made a motion to accept the invitation. Ms. Best-Rolls seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Baker offered that she would contact Quantico staff on the Commission's behalf.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. CLG Grant Regarding Slavery-Related Resources - Update**

Ms. Baker stated that staff had received the draft report and was the Department of Historic Resources had also review the final report and provided comments back to Dovetail, who would be finalizing the report and resubmit it. She also believed that they may have resubmitted already. She further stated that the proposal was for the consultant to do a presentation of the findings at the Board's September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. She explained that when that was done staff would distribute copies of the report to everybody,

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put it on the website, and it would also at that point be available at the libraries. She felt that a lot of good information came out of the report. Ms. Dodd agreed. Ms. Baker added that the report would also include additional recommendations for additional work.

8. Proposed Ordinance O06-47 – July 18, 2006 – Archaeological Surveys & Investigations

There was no discussion on this item.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Dodd stated that Ms. Forestier, County staff, had provided her with some information on a project called The Bluffs at Crane's Corner. She explained that this property already had identified Civil War sites on it as well as a 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling, a domestic trash scatter, and a prehistoric site. Ms. Dodd further stated that it appeared that a Phase I had already been done to identify the sites. Mr. Pitts pointed out that there was no indication where this information came from, which could mean it has not been done. Ms. Dodd stated that if a Phase I had not been done, they should request one. Ms. Baker stated that that could be a comment submitted by the Commission which Ms. Forestier could then bring up at the Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting. Ms. Dodd stated that the planned development would obliterate all of the cultural resources that had been identified. Ms. Baker inquired if Ms. Dodd knew the size of the areas of concern was. Ms. Dodd did not have that information. Ms. Dodd asked for a motion. Ms. Kirby made a motion to write a letter to the developer expressing the Commission's concerns. The motion passed 4 to 0. (Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Chichester left the meeting before the vote).

Ms. Dodd stated that she got in touch with Henry Cropp, who was a surveyor, regarding Greenbank but he told her he never did anything with Greenbank Farm and suggested they look at the Randall Surveys. Ms. Dodd reiterated that couple of months ago she received a query from an individual looking for a cemetery he seemed to remember from his childhood. She felt that it was the same burial that another individual from Texas was trying to find. Ms. Dodd stated that although a Phase I and II was done, they were unable to find it.

Ms. Dodd stated that she went out to Widewater the previous weekend to record a building that would be given to the Fire Department for practice. She explained that the original part of the house had been Clifton School, but that there was very little left of that. Ms. Dodd stated that she was able to gather a little bit of information from deeds.

Ms. Dodd stated that she and Ms. Kirby went through the box which Ms. Baker gave them at the last meeting. She further stated that some of the contents belonged to other counties. She further stated that a large number of the documents were unidentifiable as far as their origin. She suggested the identified documents be passed on to the respective counties. Ms. Dodd did point out two documents in particular she was excited about, which was a newspaper article from 1984 that talked about Shelton Cottage, as well as a picture from 1982 of Government Island with buildings. She stated that she tried to copy the image, but it was not of good quality. Ms. Baker suggested contacting the newspaper to see if they still had the picture in their archives.

Ms. Kirby stated that the documents she went through were in poor condition as well, but were only copies and could probably be found in original someplace else. She further explained that they were not

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deeds but insurance policies. She went through some of the documents explaining what they were and that they could probably be found other places. Ms. Best-Rolls asked which era they were from. Ms. Kirby stated that the earliest she found was from 1796 and the most recent one was from 1849. Ms. Dodd suggested making an extensive inventory of the contents and returning all of them to Ms. Baker to keep in an acid free box at the County. Ms. Dodd asked Ms. Baker to make sure that the documents belonging to other counties would be sent there. Ms. Baker agreed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 2, 2015

The approval of the July 2nd, 2015 minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Kirby made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 to 0.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.